

INFORMATION.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

Ex. ss. "ADEN"
We have received our first shipment of
VEGETABLE AND FLOWER
SEEDS.

SEA-ON 1894-95.

The SEEDS will be OPENED OUT as soon as
the weather allows, and in the meantime orders
will be booked for execution in the sequence in
which they are received, as long as the supply
lasts.

SEED LISTS

HINTS FOR GARDENING have been issued and
may still be obtained on application.

Our Seeds are all tested before being put up
in London. They are packed under our own
Supervision, and the greatest care is exercised
to insure protection in transit.

Sowings should be made in the weather
only and the remainder of the packet secured
from damp, and kept in a dry place for repeat
sowings.

CLAY'S FERTILIZER.

A high-class fertilizer for Pot Plants and for
use in the Garden generally; it supplies natural
nourishment to the soil, and assists the process
of assimilation, thereby aiding the plants to
attain to their full size, vigor, and beauty.

Sold in Tins containing 14 lbs. each, \$1.75.
25 lbs. each, \$2.50.

Directions for Use are given on the Label.

RANSOM'S "NEW PARIS"

LAWN MOWERS.

The Best and Cheapest Machines in the Market.
For Sale at Manufacturers' Prices.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1894.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the news columns
should be addressed to "The Editor."
Correspondents are requested to forward their names
and addresses with communications addressed to the
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.
No anonymous signed communications should be
inserted in either paper, and will be forwarded.
Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be
sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.
After that time the supply is limited. Only supplied
for Cash.

Telephone Exchange Press.
P.O. Box 30. Telephone No. 12.

DEATH.

At his residence, 24th Street, on Sunday,
the 19th instant, at 6:00 a.m., YOUNG MAN, the
beloved wife of DOLLO NORTON, aged 72, deeply
regretted.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, AUGUST 20, 1894.

The Tai Ping Shan Resumption Ordinance
has been under the consideration of the un-
official members of the Legislative Council,
whose opinion has been solicited by the
Governor, and as the result of the several
conferences held some modifications have
been made in the draft Bill. The most
important of these relates to the proposed
demolition of all the houses in the district.
The preamble to the draft Bill as published
contained the following: "And whereas it
is expedient that the houses in the said
"portions of the Tai Ping Shan district should
be pulled down and destroyed with the
least possible delay and the entire area
"laid out as a public park, etc.; and
section 7 provided that no houses
should be pulled down pending survey,
etc.; thereafter the Public Works depart-
ment to pull down and destroy all the
houses and remove the materials thereof,
and to dig up and remove all sewers and
drains and all soil and sub-soil that may be
found to be affected by the percolation of
sewage, or to be in any way unsanitary.
All this, we understand, has been struck
out. The argument used was that, when
the Crown had resumed the land it was un-
necessary to tie its hands. Technically it
will be still open to the Government to destroy
the whole of the property if it thinks fit,
but it will not be compulsory upon it
to do so, and as a matter of fact the alter-
ation is made with the idea that the destruc-
tion shall not be complete. It is
contended that there is a good deal of
property within the condemned area that it
would be wasteful to destroy—well built
houses that are in a perfectly sanitary con-
dition, and others equally well built, but
lacking air and light, which can be made
sanitary at a comparatively small expense.
The idea of laying out the district entirely
afresh has been abandoned, but in some
cases lanes will have to be widened by
taking a few feet off the adjoining lots, and
in view of the complicated questions that
would arise should the land remain in
private ownership the opinion is practically
unanimous that the whole area must be re-
sumed. The Government can then proceed to
widen the lanes where it may be necessary,
to demolish such of the houses as are simple
hovels and incapable of being rendered habi-
table, to improve others, and finally to re-
sell the land. Of course nothing has been
absolutely decided upon; the final decision
will rest with the Legislative Council sitting
in open session, and at present the matter
is in a rather indeterminate position; but it
would seem that if present opinions prevail
the Government will be reduced to about one-fourth of its original di-
mensions. At first a million and a half was

Toughly spoken of as the probable cost of
what had to be done, but a more careful esti-
mate fixed the amount at three-quarters of a
million for the destruction of the whole of
the condemned area; the partial destruc-
tion now favoured will, it is estimated,
cost well within one quarter of a million.
These figures will convey some idea of the
extent to which the original programme has
undergone provisional modification.

The whole or a part only, is the form in
which the question of the reconstruction of
Tai Ping Shan now presents itself. It will be
useful to recall what was said by the Presi-
dent of the Sanitary Board in his letter to
the Government of the 28th June:
"The district itself is very badly laid out
and was formed, and the soil is every-
where fertilized with the accumulated deposits
of many years. The Committee do not
say that the houses cannot be made fit for
human habitation each in its degree, nor
do they say that all the houses included
within the limits of the district are, in
themselves, defective and insanitary; there
are several good houses situated within the
prescribed area; but they do say that no
amount of expenditure on the older houses
will ever render them safe, and that no-
thing but the pulling down of the whole
of the existing houses and the complete
reconstruction of the quarter with wider
streets and better drainage, will ever
prevent the neighbourhood from being a
source of danger to the entire city."

"The Committee therefore recommend:—
(1) That the whole area (including streets)
about 10 acres, be resumed by the Govern-
ment, paying compensation to owners and
others interested according to their re-
spective interests. (2) That the whole of
the buildings on the ground be destroyed,
preferably by fire. (3) That the entire
area be dug over, old drains opened up
and removed and all sewage-saturated soil
got rid of, the ground laid out afresh for
building purposes with wider and better
streets, and a complete system of drainage
more suitable than the old for the require-
ments of a Chinese population; and (4)
"That the whole, when so laid out and
reclaimed, be put up for sale by public
auction in lots or otherwise." The proposal
to dig over the whole area has been
generally received with disfavour. This
is a point on which the public hardly
requires the assistance of expert opinion.
Everyone knows as a matter of common
sense and every-day knowledge that the soil
possesses wonderful powers of self-purifica-
tion, and that when the sources of pollu-
tion are removed polluted soil very soon be-
comes clean and healthy. Sewage pollution
has ceased in Tai Ping Shan for two months
and already the process of self-purification
of the soil must be far advanced if it is
not actually complete. At the present moment
we do not think that a plague bacillus could
be found at a depth of either two feet or two
inches, but, however this may be, it can hardly
be doubted that whatever danger may
still lurk in the soil of the neighbourhood
will be amply guarded against by provid-
ing every house with a layer of impervious
concrete on the ground floor. As to the lay-
ing out of the district, no doubt it might be
improved if we were starting afresh, but it is
a simple matter of health that has to be
considered, and if it can be shown that there
is no danger to health in the existing plan
the Colony would not be disposed to enter
on an expensive scheme of reconstruction
simply to improve the architectural
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buildings within the area so much the
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the number of sanitary and insanitary
houses in the district. The Permanent
Committee "do not say that the houses
cannot be made fit for human habitation
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further investigation as to the alleged neces-
sity of pulling down the entire district may
be considered judicious, for if the expenditure
can be reduced from three-quarters of a mil-
lion to one quarter it will be an excellent
thing for the Colony in its present embar-
rassed condition. The question, however, is
not one to be decided wholly or mainly on
pecuniary considerations. Whatever the
cost it is essential that the whole district
should be put in a thoroughly sanitary con-
dition, and especially that back to back houses
should be abolished, unless some plan can be
devised to provide them with adequate ven-
tilating shafts. The statements and recom-
mendations of the Permanent Committee are
very general in their character, but presumably
the Government has had prepared for it
a detailed description of the district, street
by street and block by block. If this be so
it would be material to assist the public in the
consideration of the question if this report
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"each in its degree," and this being so some
further investigation as to the alleged neces-
sity of pulling down the entire district may
be considered judicious, for if the expenditure
can be reduced from three-quarters of a mil-
lion to one quarter it will be an excellent
thing for the Colony in its present embar-
rassed condition. The question, however, is
not one to be decided wholly or mainly on
pecuniary considerations. Whatever the
cost it is essential that the whole district
should be put in a thoroughly sanitary con-
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should be abolished, unless some plan can be
devised to provide them with adequate ven-
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very general in their character, but presumably
the Government has had prepared for it
a detailed description of the district, street
by street and block by block. If this be so
it would be material to assist the public in the
consideration of the question if this report
were made public. The colony will not
flinch from the expenditure if it can be
shown that the total demolition of the
district is necessary, but it will be a great
relief if it can be shown that partial
demolition will suffice.

The whole or a part only, is the form in
which the question of the reconstruction of
Tai Ping Shan now presents itself. It will be
useful to recall what was said by the Presi-
dent of the Sanitary Board in his letter to
the Government of the 28th June:
"The district itself is very badly laid out
and was formed, and the soil is every-
where fertilized with the accumulated deposits
of many years. The Committee do not
say that the houses cannot be made fit for
human habitation each in its degree, nor
do they say that all the houses included
within the limits of the district are, in
themselves, defective and insanitary; there
are several good houses situated within the
prescribed area; but they do say that no
amount of expenditure on the older houses
will ever render them safe, and that no-
thing but the pulling down of the whole
of the existing houses and the complete
reconstruction of the quarter with wider
streets and better drainage, will ever
prevent the neighbourhood from being a
source of danger to the entire city."

"The Committee therefore recommend:—
(1) That the whole area (including streets)
about 10 acres, be resumed by the Govern-
ment, paying compensation to owners and
others interested according to their re-
spective interests. (2) That the whole of
the buildings on the ground be destroyed,
preferably by fire. (3) That the entire
area be dug over, old drains opened up
and removed and all sewage-saturated soil
got rid of, the ground laid out afresh for
building purposes with wider and better
streets, and a complete system of drainage
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ments of a Chinese population; and (4)
"That the whole, when so laid out and
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